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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,179	12/03/2003	Herbert W. Harris	18184-0003US	8872

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DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH
ATTN: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
ONE LOGAN SQUARE
18TH AND CHERRY STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-6996

EXAMINER

SOROUGH, LAYLA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,179

Applicant(s)

HARRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Layla Soroush

Art Unit

1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The response filed October 5, 2007 presents remarks and arguments submitted to the office action mailed July 13, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-40 are pending.

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph rejection of Claims 2 and 7 is not persuasive. Therefore, the rejection is maintained for the reasons of record.

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection of Claims 1 and 12 over Tomori et al. (Journal of Chromatography, 241 (1982) p. 89-99) and as evidenced by Maeda et al. (US 4025528 A) is persuasive. Therefore, the rejection is herewith withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejection of 2-11 over Tomori et al. (Journal of Chromatography, 241 (1982) p. 89-99) is persuasive. Therefore, the rejection is herewith withdrawn.

Applicants filing of a Terminal Disclaimer for the ODP rejection made over of US Pat. No. 6864251, co-pending Application No. 10/309573, 10/727940, and 10/728286 will be withdrawn once the Terminal Disclaimer is approved.

Claims 1-12 are herein acted upon on the merits.

In view of applicant's arguments the following new and modified rejections have been made:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation "substantially free" renders the claim vague and indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korosi et al. (US Pat No. 4,423,044).

Korosi et al. discloses a pharmaceutical composition containing an active ingredient a 3,4-Dihydro-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine derivatives of the formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof, wherein R represents a phenyl group optionally carrying one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C1-4 alkoxy and benzyloxy; a furyl or a thienyl group. R1 stands for a hydrogen atom or a C1-4 alkyl group, R2 and R3 each represent hydrogen atom, C1-4 alkoxy, C4-7 cycloalkoxy or benzyloxy group

together with a conventional inert, non-toxic, solid or liquid carrier and/or additive. Hence, the compound of formula I wherein the R represents a phenyl group carrying two substituents selected from a hydroxyl, a C1 alkoxy, R1 stands for a C2 alkyl group, R2 and R3 represents two C1 alkoxy groups (col 9 claim 1 and col 10 claim 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korosi et al. (US Pat No. 4,423,044) as applied to claims 1 and 12 above.

Korosi et al. fails to teach (R) or (S)- 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine.

The difference between the present claims and prior art is that applicants claim the R and S isomer whereas the prior art discloses the racemate.

However, it is generally known in the art that normally, one of the enantiomers of a racemate would possess a disproportionate amount of the desired biological activity. This would motivate one of ordinary skill to isolate the separate enantiomers in order to determine which of the two is most effective for the

desired purpose. In addition, the isomer/enantiomer of a racemate is *prima facie* obvious. *In re Adamson*, 125 USPQ 233 (1960).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-6 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6864251 B2. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the invention herein is drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof whereas the prior

art teaches a method of treating a individual afflicted with an inflammatory disorder mediated by LTB.sub.4 comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of at least one compound inclusive of 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

It would have been obvious to a skilled artisan that the identical compound would be useful as a pharmaceutically acceptable compound as claimed.

Claims 1-6 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5 of U.S. Application No. 10/309573. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the invention herein is drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof whereas the prior art teaches a method of increasing the absolute neutrophil count in an individual, comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of at least one compound inclusive of 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

It would have been obvious to a skilled artisan that the identical compound would be useful as a pharmaceutically acceptable compound as claimed.

Claims 1-6 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 13 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/727940. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not

patentably distinct from each other because the invention herein is drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof whereas the prior art teaches a method of treating an individual afflicted with an inflammatory disorder comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of at least one compound inclusive of 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

It would have been obvious to a skilled artisan that the identical compound would be useful as a pharmaceutically acceptable compound as claimed.

Claims 1-6 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 6 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/728286. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the invention herein is drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8- dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof whereas the prior art teaches a method of increasing the absolute neutrophil count in an individual, comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of at least one compound inclusive of 1-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-5-ethyl-7,8-dimethoxy-5H-2,3-benzodiazepine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

It would have been obvious to a skilled artisan that the identical compound would be useful as a pharmaceutically acceptable compound as claimed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 5, 2007 have been fully considered.

The response to the arguments is as discussed below:

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation "substantially free" renders the claim vague and indefinite. It is unclear from the claim language what applicant means by substantially free; is it free or is it not free of the enantiomer?

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) rejection of Claims 1 and 12 over Tomori et al. (Journal of Chromatography, 241 (1982) p. 89-99) and as evidenced by Maeda et al. (US 4025528) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments over the 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejection of 2-11 over Tomori et al. (Journal of Chromatography, 241 (1982) p. 89-99) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants filing of a Terminal Disclaimer for the ODP rejection made over of US Pat. No. 6864251, co-pending Application No. 10/309573, 10/727940, and 10/728286 will be withdrawn once the Terminal Disclaimer is approved.

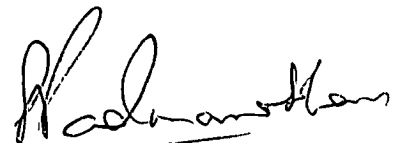
Conclusion

No claims allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Layla Soroush whose telephone number is (571)272-5008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan, can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**